

2324-77

Dassative Registry

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA

: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM

: Sayre Stevens

Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT

: Query Regarding Colombian Use of US-Supplied

Helicopters to Smuggle Drugs

- 1. Action Requested: None. This is in response to your recent query and intended only for your information. As of this date, we have no intelligence information suggesting that Colombian helicopters are, or ever have been, involved in narcotics smuggling.
- 2. <u>Background</u>: The only helicopters currently in the Colombian inventory belong to the Colombian Air Force. There are a total of 72, all of US manufacture, and all were purchased by the Colombian Government—either outright or under the terms of the Foreign Military Sales Act.
 - a. The Colombian Government requested three additional helicopters last year, under the terms of the Narcotics Assistance Act, to be used in narcotics control activities. Negotiations for these aircraft have not yet been completed. Presumably this subject will be discussed when Ms. Falco, S/NM, and Dr. Bourne, the President's Special Adviser on Health Matters, meet with President Lopez in Bogota later this month.
 - b. A survey by US AID Mission advisers last April produced no evidence of any misuse by Colombia of AID funds and commodities.

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